

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Volga Region)

SUBJECT Yablonka Oil Field

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. There was an oil field near Yablonka, about 20 km upstream from Kuibyshev (53°12'N/49°20'E), on the right (western) bank of the Volga River. The field was 4 to 5 km wide and extended 2 to 3 km to the north. The first drillings were made in 1935, and the field had about 15 wooden derricks by the end of the war. By April 1949 about 50 drilling derricks, most of them wooden, had been established. There were also some modern steel producing derricks. About 40 wells with pumping installations were in operation. In addition, 10 to 20 self-flowing wells were brought in periodically. The oil strata were in several layers. Gushers occurred even at depths less than 50 meters. Otherwise, drilling depths varied considerably and were as much as 1,000 meters. The oil field was very productive. Additional drillings were sunk continuously in the period just preceding April 1949.
2. The wells were connected by branch lines with a number of tanks. There were only six large tanks at the end of the war. Nine to ten additional oil tanks were constructed in 1946, and 14 more in 1947/1948. The old tanks were 8 to 10 meters both in height and in diameter, the new ones 20 to 25 meters in diameter and 10 to 15 meters in height. The average tank had a capacity of 6,000 tons. A twin pipe line led from the tank installations to the landing places and filling stations at the riverside. Additional pipelines were under construction in 1949.
3. For its own requirements the field had a large oil-filtering installation with a small gasoline separator. Also on the field were a large pumping station with various intermediary pumping stations and distributor stations, and a small power station with four generators, two of which were in operation at a time. There were two old boiler houses at the end of the war and two others were built later. In addition, the field had a machine house and various workshops. At the end of 1948 and early in 1949 a large new power plant was under construction at the western edge of the field. It was scheduled to be connected by a pipe line with the drilling sites, the oil-filtering plant and the tanks. The power plant was operated with oil-fueled Diesel turbines. It allegedly was to supply the entire area.
4. The oil field had a road connection, but no spur tracks. An average of three tankers were dispatched during daytime. The daily outgoing shipments were estimated at about 15,000 metric tons.

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5. [] estimated the total work force in the Yablonka Oil field to be 1,000 to 500, [] 3,000 to 4,000, working in three shifts. **

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* [] Comment. A producing derrick (Foerderturm) is a derrick over a producing well. Instead of supporting drilling equipment, a producing derrick supports any installations necessary to extract oil from the well.

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** [] Comment. Yablonka is not indicated on available maps (scale 1:1,000,000). It is possible that this field is identical to the one mentioned in a previous report.

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